



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13-1018

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sonnenberg, Buck, Buckner, Conti, Coram, Court, DelGrosso, Dore, Duran, Everett, Exum, Fields, Fischer, Foote, Garcia, Gardner, Gerou, Ginal, Hamner, Holbert, Hullinghorst, Humphrey, Joshi, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsock, Lee, Levy, May, McCann, McNulty, Melton, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Murray, Navarro, Nordberg, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Rosenthal, Ryden, Saine, Salazar, Schafer, Scott, Singer, Stephens, Swalm, Szabo, Tyler, Vigil, Waller, Williams, Wilson, Wright, Young, Ferrandino; also SENATOR(S) Brophy, Aguilar, Balmer, Baumgardner, Cadman, Carroll, Crowder, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Harvey, Heath, Hill, Hodge, Hudak, Jahn, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Newell, Nicholson, Renfroe, Roberts, Scheffel, Schwartz, Steadman, Tochtrop, Todd, Ulibarri, Morse.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF MARCH 19, 2013, AS "NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY".

WHEREAS, Americans enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world, thanks in large part to the efficiency and productivity of America's farm and ranch families; and

WHEREAS, As the world's population continues to grow from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2045, farmers and ranchers are challenged with producing more food, feed, fiber, and fuel; and

WHEREAS, Today, 98% of all U.S. farms are family-owned, and each American farmer feeds more than 156 people, a dramatic increase from the 1960s, when each farmer fed a mere 25 people; and

WHEREAS, American consumers spend less than 10% of their annual income on food, less than any other developed nation, as American farmers and ranchers receive only 12 cents of every dollar spent on food; and

WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers are the most capable and responsible providers for the safety, health, and well-being of their livestock; and

WHEREAS, The agriculture industry is the second largest industry in Colorado, supporting more than 173,000 jobs in Colorado and contributing \$41 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado was responsible for nearly \$1.8 billion of exported food and agricultural products in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture contributes to national security by not only providing food and fiber, but also producing energy; and

WHEREAS, Colorado recognizes landowners whose livelihood depends upon the property they reside on, operate on, and care for as they work to provide the basic necessities for all from their land; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry requires an adequate, reliable work force in order to provide food from the field to the table; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's farms and ranches provide habitats for wildlife and open space as well as innovative and sustainable farming practices that ensure the protection of state resources; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculture industry is extremely diversified in terms of value and production, including cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, bison, elk, eggs, wine grapes, fruit, vegetables, greenhouse and nursery products, honey, and aquaculture, as well as commodities including corn, wheat, and hay; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's agriculturists employ sound animal husbandry practices, which ensure that livestock remain healthy, productive, and content; and

WHEREAS, Colorado agriculture provides an estimated \$67.5 million annually to support the state's wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's farmers and ranchers are innovative entrepreneurs and business leaders who remain resilient in their dedication to the state's agriculture; and

WHEREAS, The protection of private property and the rights of landowners who provide wholesome, safe food to Americans and others worldwide is essential; and

WHEREAS, Farmers and ranchers are critical to Colorado agritourism, welcoming tourists from around the world and showing them all Colorado has to offer; and

WHEREAS, Losing agricultural land and water to other uses will result in overall negative impacts to the state's economy and a loss of food production vital to all Coloradans; and

WHEREAS, The week of March 17, 2013, through March 23, 2013, is "National Agriculture Week"; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly, proudly recognize "National Agriculture Day" on March 19, 2013, in celebration of the many men and women who strengthen the nation's agriculture industry; promote a safe, high quality, and sustainable food supply; and protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Honorable Governor, John Hickenlooper; Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, John Salazar; and the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

Mark Ferrandino
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

John P. Morse
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE